

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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R 220930Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9926

INFO CANBERRA 712

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0280

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SN

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS AND PLANS FOR ANZUK FORCE RUN-DOWN

1. SUMMARY. AS OF JANUARY 1, 1974, ALL AUSTRALIAN COMBAT FORCES HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM SINGAPORE. AUSTRALIAN LOGISTIC AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL WILL BE PHASED OUT DURING 1974 AND EARLY 1975 EXCEPT SMALL COMPLEMENT WHICH WILL SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN AIR ELEMENT. AS OF JANUARY 31, 1974, ALL NEW ZEALAND FORCES IN SINGAPORE WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM ANZUK AND ESTABLISHED AS SEPARATE REGIONAL FORCE LOCATED IN SINGAPORE. ACCORDING TENTATIVE PLANNING, ANZUK COMMAND WILL PROBABLY BE TERMINATED ABOUT OCTOBER 1, 1974. NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOFSGVER DISPOSITION OF GROUND FACILITIES HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT WILL PROBABLY BE RESOLVED AS RESULT OF GNZ DECISION TO ALLOW REVERSION OF NUMBER OF FACILITIES IN RETURN FOR
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GOS PROMISE PROVIDE SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO LATEST INFORMATION OBTAINED BY DAO FROM ANZUK SOURCES, FOLLOWING IS STATUS OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND CURRENT PLANNING FOR RUN-DOWN OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES IN SINGAPORE, TERMINATION OF ANZUK COMMAND AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE NEW ZEALAND AND UK COMMANDS:

A. AUSTRALIAN WITHDRAWAL. AS OF JANUARY 1, 1974, ALL AUSTRALIAN ARMY COMBAT FORCES (ONE COMBAT BATTALION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,000 MEN) HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN. ANZUK LOGISTICS FORCE WAS ALSO TERMINATED AS OF SAME DATE WITH LOGISTICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TRANSFERRED TO ANZUK COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. AUSTRALIAN NON-COMBAT ARMY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (APPROXIMATELY 600-700 PERSONS) WILL BE GRADUALLY PHASED OUT DURING 1974 AND EARLY 1975. BY END OF JUNE 1975 ALL AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT PERSONNEL WILL HAVE DEPARTED SINGAPORE EXCEPT SMALL COMPLEMENT (APPROXIMATELY 150) WHICH WILL SERVE TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN AIR ELEMENT (6 TO 8 MIRAGE III D AIRCRAFT DEPLOYED FROM BUTTERWORTH TO SAF TENGAH) AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SADC BLOODHOUND II MISSILE SQUADRON. AUSTRALIAN NAVAL ELEMENT (1 FRIGATE) WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER ANZUK COMMAND DURING ITS PROJECTED TERM.

B. AS OF JANUARY 31, 1974, ALL NEW ZEALAND FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM ANZUK AND ESTABLISHED AS SEPARATE REGIONAL FORCE TO BE KNOWN AS NEW ZEALAND FORCES, SEA, UNDER COMMAND OF RNZ ARMY OFFICER BRIGADIER MICHAEL KENNEDY. ALTHOUGH NEW ZEALAND FORCE WILL OPERATE IN SINGAPORE AS SEPARATE COMMAND, IT WILL RELY ON ANZUK IN INTERIM AND UK FORCES LATER FOR LOGISTICS, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL MECHANISMS AND ON SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES FOR UNSPECIFIED GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING SUPPORT.

C. ACCORDING TENTATIVE PLANNING, ANZUK COMMAND AND HEADQUARTERS WILL PROBABLY BE TERMINATED ABOUT
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OCTOBER 1, 1974. ACTUAL DATE HAS NOT BEEN SET BECAUSE OF BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UK AND GNZ. LATTER WISHES EARLIEST POSSIBLE TERMINATION WHILE UK FINDS ANZUK RUBRIC POLITICALLY DESIRABLE IN ORDER TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF UNILATERAL MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. UK MAY SUCCEED IN POSTPONING HAULING DOWN OF ANZUK FLAG UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1975. HOWEVER, IN VIEW CONTINUING COMMONWEALTH MILITARY PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE,

USE OF ANZUK ACRONYM, ALTHOUGH TOTALLY WITHOUT SUBSTANCE, MAY CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

D. UK FORCES INCLUDING ROYAL HIGHLANDER REGIMENT (APPROXIMATELY 1,600), RAF DETACHMENT AND ONE FRIGATE WOULD COME UNDER SEPARATE BRITISH COMMAND FOLLOWING DISSOLUTION OF ANZUK. FYI. OUTGOING ANZUK COMMANDER, REAR ADMIRAL DAVID WELLS (AUSTRALIAN), HAS COMMENTED TO NAVATT THAT HE STRONGLY DOUBTS WHETHER UK BUDGETARY SITUATION WILL PERMIT RETENTION OF COMBAT REGIMENT IN SINGAPORE FOLLOWING DISSOLUTION OF ANZUK. END FYI.

E. RAAF UNITS AT BUTTERWORTH ARE NOT AFFECTED BY ANZUK WITHDRAWAL EXCEPT IN COMMAND RELATIONS. INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM (IADS) A COMMAND AND CONTROL HEADQUARTERS DRAWING ON AIR ELEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, UK, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE IS SLATED TO REMAIN ESSENTIALLY AS IS.

3. UK DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER WATTS HAS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOS OVER DISPOSITION OF GROUND FACILITIES FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL AUSTRALIAN COMBAT FORCE HAS BEEN BOTH DIFFICULT AND UNPLEASANT. GOS HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT SINCE AUSTRALIAN FORCES COMPOSE 40 PERCENT OF ANZUK GROUND FORCES, ANZUK SHOULD HAND BACK TO GOS 40 PERCENT OF BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND LAND BEING USED. COMMONWEALTH HICOMS AND ANZUK COMMAND HAVE BEEN PATIENTLY ENDEAVORING TO EXPLAIN TO GOS THAT THIS APPROACH IS UNREALISTIC AND THAT UK AND NEW ZEALAND FORCES STILL REQUIRE SUPPORT FACILITIES EVEN IF SUCH FACILITIES HAVE FEWER FORCES TO SUPPORT. WATTS OBSERVED THAT

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WHILE SOME ELEMENTS IN MINDEF AND MFA ARE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL, DR. GOH KENG SWEE, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, IS BEING PARTICULARLY INTRANSIGENT. HE JUDGED PROBLEM WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RESOLVED AND GOS WOULD GET MOST OF WHAT IT WANTED LARGELY BECAUSE BNZ HAD AGREED TO REVERSION OF NUMBER OF FACILITIES IN RETURN FOR GOS PROMISE OF CONSIDERABLE HOUSEKEEPING SUPPORT.

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